

**Written Comments of Owen Hunt
128 Dalano Street, Allegan MI
For
Local Government Committee Hearing
Thursday, September 18, 2014
Regarding House Bill 5730**

Having been a professional truck driver for fifteen years, covering almost two million miles in the U.S. and Canada, I feel well qualified in the use of compression brakes or "Jake Brakes".

In Michigan in particular, I have driven on every interstate highway and most of the State highways and have never found it necessary to use the compression brakes.

These brakes are installed to assist drivers in braking in mountains with high elevations, which Michigan does not have. Drivers in Michigan can achieve the same results simply by shifting down one gear. They prefer to use the "Jake Brakes" out of laziness or as a "macho" thing.

I would like to have signs installed on every highway coming into Michigan saying "No Jake Brakes Allowed"

The only exception would be for trucks pulling double trailers with loads weighing in the 100,000 pound range.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my opinion on this matter of some concern to Allegan. Since I cannot attend the scheduled hearing, please have this added to the hearing record. Thank you also to Representative Genetski for alerting me to this hearing, and for his efforts to make a difference in this issue of importance to my community.